

Defense Deputy General Counsel for Fiscal Matters died recently at the age of 52. Phil had served the Department of Defense for 27 years in a number of positions.

Mr. Hitch began his career in the Army, serving from 1971 to 1975 as an Assistant Staff Judge Advocate for the Military Traffic Management Command. Upon leaving the Army in 1975, he represented the Office of the Counsel for the Navy Comptroller. He became the Counsel for the Navy Comptroller in 1981.

In 1992, Philip Hitch became the Deputy General Counsel for Fiscal Matters for the Department of Defense. In this role, Phil served the Defense Department capably by supporting DOD's legislative proposals regarding financial matters. Equally important, at a time of significant Congressional activity in the areas of Defense navigate its way through the process of change.

However, few know that the Congress, particularly the Senate Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Defense, relied heavily on Phil for advice on general provisions and other financial legislation under consideration. In this sensitive and occasionally conflicting role, Phil was able to provide thoughtful and precise legal counsel while maintaining the trust the Committee needed in the delicate task of seeking Defense Department views on legislative proposals. In this role, Phil was able to make a significant contribution to the nation's defense acquisition process, serving both the Defense Department and committee on Appropriations as confidant and counsel.

In a busy town dominated by people seeking to be heard and recognized, Phil Hitch generally sought neither. Indeed, one of Phil's strong qualities as his willingness to take time and listen to all aspects of the issue at hand. When asked for his advice, it was clear and concise—formulated to make the process of managing fiscal legal matters more productive for the nation as a whole.

Fortunately, I can tell you that the quality of Phil's work was recognized through his receipt of the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Service and the Navy Distinguished Service Award. The Navy Distinguished Service Award notes that "Mr. Hitch has left indelible contributions to the management and operations on the Department of the Navy."

Mr. President, the Defense Department and the Senate will miss his wise counsel.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SINKING OF U.S.S. "MAINE"

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, one hundred years ago this Sunday, February 15, a tragic event took place in Havana harbor which claimed the lives of 260 officers and crew and hurtled our nation into war. I rise today to remember the U.S.S. *Maine* on the 100th anniversary

of her destruction, and to honor the memories of those brave men who died in service aboard that mighty ship.

True to her namesake's motto, "Dirigo", or "I Lead", the *Maine* was one of the first surface combatants to be designated as a battleship. When she was commissioned in 1895 she was, at 319 feet in length, the largest ship ever built in a U.S. Navy shipyard. A state-of-the-art vessel, the *Maine* was showcased in many ceremonial events and was the pride of the U.S. Navy.

Then, on February 15, 1898, destiny called upon the U.S.S. *Maine*, her officers and her crew. On that night—a quiet and still evening by accounts from survivors—an explosion shattered the tranquility of Havana Harbor and tore through the *Maine*, blowing apart her berthing deck and hurling much of her starboard side into the water. After several smaller explosions in the ship's magazines, only 88 men remained among the living, and the United States and Spain were one giant step closer to war.

Soon after the tragedy, eight more men died and in the weeks following six more deaths would be attributed to injuries suffered aboard the *Maine*. Initial Navy reports suspected a mine sank the *Maine*, but urged caution until further investigations could be conducted. The outrage surrounding the incident was taking on a life of its own, however, as papers throughout America reported to a stunned and outraged nation that the pride of our Navy had been destroyed by an enemy mine set in Havana Harbor with the sole and deadly purpose of sinking the *Maine*.

On March 23, 1898, a Navy board officially concluded that it was, in fact, a mine that put the *Maine* on the bottom of Havana Harbor. By April, the infamous expression "Remember the *Maine*" became a rallying cry for a nation and by the end of that month, President McKinley had ordered a naval blockade which precipitated a formal declaration of war by the U.S. Congress against Spain.

The Captain of the U.S.S. *Maine*, Captain Charles Sigsbee, who survived the tragedy, put the scope of the U.S.S. *Maine* disaster in perspective after the Spanish-American War ended. He said: "During the recent war with Spain, about 75 men were killed and wounded in the United States Navy. Only 17 were killed. On board the *Maine*, 252 men were killed outright and eight died later—nearly fifteen times as many as were killed in the United States Navy by the Spanish land and naval forces during the entire war."

We may never know precisely why the *Maine* met her end that night one hundred years ago. Today, controversy still surrounds the original theory that it was a mine that sank her. Indeed, a 1976 report compiled by the order of Admiral Hyman Rickover concluded that it was an internal fire in a coal bunker next to the *Maine*'s powder magazines that led to the fatal explosion.

More recently, tests results reported in National Geographic magazine, based on a careful computer analysis of photographs of the twisted hull, proved inconclusive.

While the means by which she met her end may always be a mystery, one thing is for certain: there will never be a debate about her place in history. And there will never be a debate about the bravery of those souls lost aboard the *Maine* in a flash of fire and chaos.

That is why we remember the *Maine*. Captain Sigsbee, knowing of the controversy surrounding the cause of the explosion and its consequences, admonished us to recall the most honorable reason to remember her: "In the way that the men of the *Maine* suffered there was enough of the heroic to provide a sound foundation for the motto, "Remember the *Maine*".

And so we do so today, and always. Remembrance events are scheduled to take place across the country: at Arlington Cemetery, in Bangor, Maine—where the shield and scroll of the ship rest today, in Central Park in New York City, in Key West, Florida, and at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Liz Henning, Midshipman at the Naval Academy, will likely be there: in the recent National Geographic story on the *Maine*, she was quoted as saying, "We still think about those guys on the *Maine* * * * Navy people never forget".

Nor will Mainers ever forget. In Bangor, an appropriate memorial to the *Maine* reminds us of that fateful day one hundred years ago. In the Blaine House in Augusta—the Governor's residence—the silver soup tureen and vegetable dish from the original U.S.S. *Maine*, along with the loving cup, have been displayed for the past 70 years and have become one of our state's most unique treasures. The story of the recovery of these pieces from the bottom of the ocean in Havana Harbor has always brought a look of awe and amazement to the eyes of Maine's children, and it was always clear to me that these pieces are our living link to Maine's maritime heritage.

And now, I am proud to say that the U.S. Postal Service will help keep the spirit of those lost on the *Maine* alive. Key West, Florida, one of the last ports of call for the U.S.S. *Maine*, and the place where many of the brave Americans who died aboard the *Maine* are buried, is the location for the First Day and City of Issue for the stamp. Key West will host a first-day ceremony and will use a distinctive First Day of Issue cancellation.

I would like to thank Postmaster General Marvin Runyon for agreeing to my request for a special, limited advance release this weekend of the Postal Service stamp commemorating the centennial of the sinking of the *Maine*. The stamp will be distributed during the U.S.S. *Maine* Centennial observance in Bangor. Rather than the First Day of Issue cancellation, the stamps will be canceled with a special pictorial of the U.S.S. *Maine* designed in Bangor.

This and other centennial celebrations will ensure that the *Maine* will indeed not be forgotten—nor will those aboard who made the ultimate sacrifice. They answered the call when their country needed them, and we must honor their memories with our respect and remembrance. As a Mainer and a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I have nothing but the utmost respect for the men and women who throughout history have risked their lives and invested their careers in our armed forces.

In that light, let us keep their memory alive, and let us ensure that future generations will understand and appreciate the legacy of the U.S.S. *Maine*, and the tragic sacrifice of her gallant crew. Let us remember the *Maine*.●

OLYMPIAN ERIC BERGOUST

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I stand today to recognize an Olympian from the great state of Montana. Eric Bergoust, a Western Montana native from Missoula, will represent our nation next week in the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan.

Eric, 28, is a freestyle aerialist skier—a sport that requires athletes to launch themselves off a snow ski ramp, twist and turn their body in mid-air and land on the slope below. You certainly cannot appreciate the physical requirements of this sport until you are able to see it. And the landings don't always end up feet down. Watch the sport long enough and you are bound to see an unplanned landing.

But Eric is not new to the challenges of freestyle aerial skiing. Eric was profiled on network television earlier this week during a look at the 1998 Winter Olympics. The profile included photos of Eric diving off the roof of his parents' Missoula home into mattresses on the ground below. Mr. President, I am happy to see that Eric's adventurous spirit is now compensated and insured.

When I was a kid, we also had to be creative to fill our time, but my feet stayed on the ground and rarely reached a height higher than the stirrups of a tall horse.

Although he has claimed his share of injuries from the physically demanding sport, I am proud to claim Eric as a native Montanan. He has represented our state well in world class events.

Eric is participating in his second Olympic games and has matured into one of the sport's premiere athletes. Last month, Eric won a World Cup event in British Columbia and is at the top of the World Cup standing entering the Olympics.

I've sent Eric a telegram wishing him well next week in the freestyle aerial events. I wanted to make sure my colleagues and the American people are aware of Eric's roots and the Montana spirit that drives him to be the world's best in his sport.●

TRIBUTE TO JANE JOHNSON

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, throughout the years, I have had the opportunity to criss-cross the State of Connecticut countless times, and along the way I have met a number of remarkable individuals. Their occupations and backgrounds may vary, but they are all linked by a common commitment to helping others and making a positive difference in their communities. These are the unsung heroes in our society, and they are the foundation on which our communities are built. Sadly, Connecticut lost one its heroes earlier this month, when Jane Johnson of New Britain died at the age of 59.

Jane Johnson's entire career was dedicated to working with poor and underprivileged children so that they may have a brighter future. A native of New Britain, she spent more than 30 years working in her home town's Head Start program, and for the past 17 years she served as its Director.

I was fortunate to work with Jane over the years, and I, along with everyone else who knew her, had the highest regard for Jane and for her opinions on issues concerning children. Not only was she well-respected throughout the State but her efforts on behalf of young people earned her national recognition. That is why she was invited to several White House Conferences on Head Start.

As if her efforts with Head Start were not enough, Jane also volunteered her free time to serve her community. She was involved with many service organizations, including as a member of the board of directors for the Sheldon Community Guidance Clinic and the United Way of New Britain. She was also active in her church, singing in the choir and actively working with the young people in the congregation.

No one really knows exactly how many children showed up to their first day of school ready to learn and came closer to reaching their full potential because of Jane Johnson's efforts. But everyone in New Britain and throughout the State of Connecticut knows that she was a remarkable woman who touched many young lives and will be dearly missed.

I offer my heartfelt condolences to her friends and family, and I ask that her obituary be printed in the RECORD.

The obituary follows:

[From the New Britain Herald, Feb. 6, 1998]

JANE JOHNSON

NEW BRITAIN.—Jane Johnson, 59, of New Britain, Director of the New Britain Head Start Program, died Tuesday, Feb. 3, 1998, at New Britain General Hospital.

Born in New Britain, she was the daughter of Josephine (Gray) Hines of New Britain and the late James Johnson. She was a lifelong New Britain resident. Jane Johnson worked for the New Britain Head Start Program at the Human Resources Agency for 30 years. She began her career in public service as a teacher's assistant in 1965, the first year of the national Head Start Program which was begun by President Lyndon Johnson as a central part of his Great Society Program. In order to fight the "War on Poverty," pro-

grams like Head Start were developed on the national level.

Ms. Johnson was an exemplary model of the program. She began participating as a client through the Parent Involvement Component of the Head Start Program. From 1965-67, she worked directly with the children as a teacher's assistant. The first director of the program, John E. Francisco, recognized Ms. Johnson's talent and promoted her. For the next five years, she worked first as an assistant, and then as the coordinator in the Social Service component of the Head Start Program. During the mid-1970's, she returned to school and earned an Associate Degree from Tuxis Community College in 1976.

Mr. Francisco promoted Ms. Johnson again in 1977, when she became his Administrative Assistant. She continued her education, earning a Bachelor of the Arts Degree from Central Connecticut State University in 1979. She graduated with honors and was named to Alpha Kappa Delta National Honor Society.

From 1980-98, Ms. Johnson was the Director of the Head Start Program. During this period, her innovative public policy initiatives earned National recognition. She was selected as a Johnson and Johnson Management Fellow and attended an honorary program at the University of Southern California in 1995.

In addition to her brilliant work as a leader in the National Head Start Program, Ms. Johnson served her community as a volunteer. She served as a member of the Board of Directors at the Sheldon Community Guidance Clinic and at the United Way of New Britain. She was a member of the Connecticut and National Association of Head Start Directors. Ms. Johnson also volunteered as a coordinator for the Conference on Coordinated Child Care For The State of Massachusetts.

Ms. Johnson was a member of the McCullough Temple C.M.E. and during the 1960's, was active as a choir member and served as a Junior District and Secretary Delegate to their young people's conference.

Throughout her life, she made countless contributions to the children and their families who came to the New Britain Head Start Program. The staff, the children, and the families who were involved with the program for the past 30 years will miss her loving guidance, her wonderful sense of humor and, most of all, her kind heart. She will continue to inspire them to serve their community with hard work and commitment.

In addition to her mother, she is survived by three children, Carnell Small of New Britain, Cheryl Small-Parris and her husband, Colin Parris of New Britain, and Wayne Small of Calif.; two sisters, Beatrice Walker of New Britain, and Margaret Johnson of Hartford; two grandchildren, Torey Small and Tia Parris; a great granddaughter, Taryn Fudge; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by an infant son, Todd Anthony Small.

Funeral services will be held on Monday, 11 a.m. at the Spottwood AME Zion Church. Burial will take place at Fairview Cemetery, New Britain. Calling hours are Sunday evening from 6 to 8 p.m. at the church. Memorial donations may be made to the HRA Head Start Program, 180 Clinton St., New Britain, CT 06053. Erickson-Hansen Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.●

JOHN HAMRE'S SPEECH ON NATO ENLARGEMENT

● Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, few have had as distinguished a career in the Senate as Howell Heflin, our former colleague from the great state of Alabama. One of the ways through which I